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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/637,404	08/08/2003	Keisuke Koga	10873.1275US01	3148
23552	7590	02/23/2005		EXAMINER
MERCHANT & GOULD PC				PATEL, VIP
P.O. BOX 2903				
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2879	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/637,404	KOGA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vip Patel	2879	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/10/03
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the claimed carbon nano-tube/graphite nano-fiber (ie, claim 12) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Specification

The specification is objected for following reasons.

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed (see MPEP 606.01).

A new title such as ---DOPED FIELD EMITTER---- is suggested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 9, lines 9-11, the applicant claims that the image display apparatus comprise a system "for controlling and atmosphere inside the vacuum container to be an atmosphere having a reducing effect on a material for emitter". Here, it is not clear at all as to what exactly the applicant is attempting to claim. Claims 10-14 are included in the rejection due to their dependency on rejected claim 9.

In claim 12, line 2-4, the applicant claims that "hydrogen absorbing material contains carbon nano-tube or graphite nano-fiber, etc. Here, it is not clear as to how hydrogen absorbing material can "contain" a carbon nano-tube or graphite nano-fiber. Does applicant mean that the carbon nano-tube or graphite nano-fiber is made/constructed of hydrogen absorbing material?

For the examination purposes, claim 12 is interpreted as follows. Hydrogen absorbing material itself is carbon nano-tube or graphite nano-fiber.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art and Bower et al (US 6630772).

Regarding claims 9-13, admitted prior art (figures 7 and 8) discloses an image display apparatus comprising a vacuum container (not labeled but shown in figure 7, an electron gun (not labeled but shown in figure 7), a member for deflecting electron beam (5 of figure 8 or 54 or figure 7), a phosphor layer (on face panel), emitter (7 of figure 8). As per claims 9-10 and 12, the admitted prior art does not teach the claimed system formed of a material containing hydrogen absorbing material or carbon nano-tube or graphite nano-fiber.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Bower discloses such a carbon nano-tube (47) for the purpose of emitting electrons. In addition, since the applicant indicates that material of carbon nano-tube absorbs hydrogen then Bower's carbon nano-tube must be absorbing hydrogen as well.

As per claim 11, the admitted prior art device shown in figure 7 (CRT) inherently has a heater in order to heat an emission layer and thus emit electrons.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 are allowed. Claims 1-8 are allowed since prior art of record does not teach the claimed field emission electron source element comprising a surface layer of an emitter which is doped with hydrogen or carbon monoxide in combination with other features of claim.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vip Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2458. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh D Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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